

of the band. And after a personal inspection I must say that the spot chosen is a very bad one, situated in close proximity to the lakes, and surrounded by a low marsh which was covered with water when the lake lately overflowed. On the other hand, the site chosen by the majority of the band at Dog Creek, and where another school-house is in course of erection, seems in every way a proper choice.

It is situated some distance from the lake upon high land and in the midst of their village. Since last winter school has been held in a vacant house here, under the mastership of Mr. Sanderson, to the general satisfaction of the band.

I found it closed during my visit holidays having been granted during the annuity payment. Four houses were erected this year, new land has been broken, the cattle which I found in very good condition have materially increased, and their crop of potatoes was unusually large.

They gathered much less hay however on account of high water.

There is also a satisfactory increase both in hunting and fishing.

On the whole, I must say that I am satisfied with the progress made since last year, and apart from the division of the chief and his band, alluded to already, the Indians of this band seem happy and contented.

*Ebb and Flow Lake.*

I am happy to state that, the lake having receded, the greater part of the ground under water last year is now fast drying.

The large increase in the potatoe crop is due to this fact. The new school house completed last year and opened under the able direction of James Asham, has been well appreciated judging from the regular attendance of the pupils. The value of fish taken this year is somewhat large as compared with that of last year, a fact which is explained by the very rough weather experienced last season during fishing time.

The new chief, Baptiste Hoole, appears very devoted to the welfare of the band, and anxious to fill his position in a manner satisfactory to the Government. Under his direction a large and comfortable stable has been erected, with the expectation that the Government will give the band a yoke of oxen, as he states that the ox now on the reserve is old and infirm.

He also, in the name of the band, asked for by-laws to be framed to facilitate the government of his band; upon his request I drafted by-laws, according to Section 74 of the Indian Act, which I have forwarded for the approval of the Governor in Council.

*Fairford.*

Acting upon the decision of the band last year, as to the place of payment this year, I landed at the Mission upon my arrival here, but found that the chief and some members of his band were camped at the lower end of the reserve. I was at once presented with two petitions, one from the upper reserve, requesting me to pay at the Mission as previously agreed upon, and one from the lower reserve, asking me to go there. As the majority demanded the payment to be made at the upper reserve, I decided to pay there. I sent word to the chief to come up, but not till the next day could he be made to come.

However, upon his arrival the next morning, he accepted the provisions, and I paid the annuity money without further delay.

Upon enquiry, I found that this misunderstanding was due to the growing influence of the half-breed element belonging to this band, but during the meeting I gave them sound advice which, I believe, resulted in a reconciliation for the present. The chief, in the name of the band, asked for by-laws, which being already prepared, he signed, together with his councillors, and which I have forwarded for the sanction of the Governor in Council. He also referred to his house which had been used as a school house for the lower reserve, and offered to sell it to the Government. The details of this offer are contained in an official letter to the Department.

Referring to school matters, I beg to call your attention to the school house upon the upper reserve. Upon the retirement of the last teacher Miss Julia Murray, the